

FRANCE WE OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ARMIES, SAYS BRIAND

mittees will proceed with the undertakings respectively assigned them, and it is not probable that another session of the full conference will be held during the present week.

Authority was given to Secretary Hughes by the same informal methods that have characterized the conduct of this most unusual international function to call a meeting of the conference whenever the committees have progressed sufficiently to warrant it. It is understood that the heads of the nine delegations have assented to the American programme for having frequent open sessions to which a limited representation of the public will be admitted, whenever there are definite recommendations from the committees available.

Four Spokesmen Heard.

In accepting the American proposal for the limitation of naval armaments "in spirit and principle" the representatives of the four most important sea Powers in the world expressed their hearty approval of the direct and frank processes employed by the American delegates in presenting their suggestions for the limitation of naval armaments.

Mr. Balfour in behalf of Great Britain, who made the most important address to the conference, declared that he counted himself "among the fortunate of the earth in that I was present and to that extent had a share in the proceedings of last Saturday."

Mr. Briand, the French Premier, in delivering the indorsement of his country, declared it to be his purpose "to welcome the opportunity to explain in open session the position of France in detail so that it might reach the ears of the American people."

The Japanese envoy, although less ingenious than his associates, "gladly accepted the proposal in principle of the United States for the limitation of naval armaments."

Some Decorous Applause.

The spokesman for Italy expressed the fullest approval not only of the American programme, but of the processes used in accomplishing the projected reforms used by the American representatives.

The applause that greeted the declarations of the spokesmen for these four Powers, which were fully concurred in by the delegates from the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal and China, furnished a feature strange in the deliberations of international councils and sounded a democratic note that never before disturbed the formal ceremonies which usually mark such momentous conventions.

It is a tribute to the rare acumen of the foreign statesmen who witnessed and heard an "American gallery" taking a hand (and voice) in the proceedings, that with the utmost good nature they apparently reconciled themselves to the novelty of the situation. There were no jarring interruptions to mar the harmony of the session, and the applause, while unctuous and significantly expressive, was most decorous.

Action Is Swift Moving.

The audience, which suggested the "first night" at the opera rather than an official function, paid much more attention to the performers in the international drama than those that usually occupy the boxes of the Metropolitan Opera House on a gala night.

The action was swift moving and intensely interesting and the brilliant uniforms of military and naval dignitaries and the smart costumes of women who made up the on-lookers in the audience were worth more than passing attention. But it was upon the hollow square of desks where sat the representatives of the most important nations of the world that the attention of the privileged spectators were focused.

From the minute Secretary Hughes commanded the attention of the delegations and audience with a light tap of his gavel, there ensued a sequence of events which held the close attention of the officials, members of governments, members of Congress, reporters and diplomats.

The session proceeded with refreshment. In democratic informality, Mr. Hughes outlined the plan for the organization of the committees on the limitation of naval armaments and Far Eastern affairs. The French interpreter rattled off in sharp, clear, rapid sentences, Mr. Hughes then turned to Mr. Balfour and said: "Mr. Balfour."

The tall, solid figure of the British statesman, looking directly at the speaker to the right of the presiding officer, straightened out and for fourteen minutes the audience enjoyed a rare treat of Secretary Hughes' eloquence. He began his address with a drawn-out "I am very happy to be here," and then, in a few words, he outlined the purpose of his mission.

A Touch of Humor.

As he warmed up to his work, Mr. Balfour occasionally brought his hands down from his coat collar and softly pressed them together in accentuating his points, or ran his right hand over his white hair back as far as the crown of his head. One of his fingers, according to the wide, low linen collar, under which knotted a bow tie that was almost a stock of the old-fashioned brand.

Mr. Balfour had been regarded as a humorist, but he came near achieving the reputation of one today. It was at that period of his most impressive address, in which he paid a tribute to the methods employed by the American delegates in exploring the naval armaments mine on Saturday, he said:

even joined in the laugh which swept the hall. In a more serious vein he was very instructive. Surrendering to the new conditions, he once addressed his fellow delegates as "ladies and gentlemen," although the only women even remotely associated with the attendance were the four members of the American advisory committee, who, with their associates, sat just behind the presiding officer, headed by Gen. Pershing.

Mr. Balfour had neglected to make of the dignified tribute paid to him while he was speaking. His clear, cut, precise pronunciation and rounded periods penetrated every part of the beautiful hall, and the audience applauded it was in merited appreciation of both the form and substance of his utterances. When he came to suggesting modifications in the American plan and pointed to the American flag and plain business like style, which Secretary of State Hughes had wrapped around the bomb he exploded at the first session.

His delivery of the pledge of Great Britain to accept in the fullest sympathy the principle and spirit of the American suggestions, which would compel a most radical reduction in the armaments of his country, was direct and simple. He stated the facts of his case plainly, without attempted forensic force. The French interpreter rattled off Mr. Balfour's speech in five minutes.

Baron Kato's Merry Twinkle.

When the applause died away Secretary Hughes looked over to the Japanese delegation sitting on the opposite side of the hall and said: "Baron Kato of Japan."

The Japanese Minister of Naval Affairs arose clutched in his hand one sheet of manuscript containing a speech in Japanese characters. He is a small, wiry man about five feet six inches in height and weighs about 150 pounds. His hair is small and round and the scant hair that crowns it is black but turning gray, as is his mustache. He looks to be anything but a sea lion, his thin, narrow face is bland and his slate colored eyes hold a merry twinkle. Adjusting gold rimmed eyeglasses to his nose, the Japanese Minister of Naval Affairs, who had sounded strange to the Occidental ear about 30 words expressing the decision of his government to accept "in spirit and principle" the American proposal. As soon as he had completed the reading of the document in his hand an alert secretary who sat beside him arose, and in clear and carefully pronounced English read a translation of his superior's speech.

There was a mild ripple of applause as the secretary came to the end of his reading. The French secretary disposed of Baron Kato's speech in less than a minute.

Mr. Hughes then turned to Senator Schanzler, the blond bearded delegate from Italy, who expressed the satisfaction of his government with the American naval programme.

"You prove at once that you mean to carry out your suggestions," he said in English, "and we wish to express in the name of the Italian delegation our approval."

Briand a Finished Orator.

Premier Briand, who somehow suggests a mastiff, was greeted with applause as soon as his shaggy head appeared above the line of chairs. Mr. Briand, a French giant, and it is a delight to listen to the flood of perfect French that seems to flow effortlessly from his lips. His pronunciation is clear and vibrant, and what renders it doubly effective, he speaks with absolute no effort. He urged the necessity of adopting definite rules of procedure. He said he would welcome any opportunity to explain the position of France and felt sure the necessity and difficulties of his country would be realized in the matter of naval armaments.

"I may say that we are back of you, Mr. Secretary," turning to the presiding officer, "because the French people are ready to join wholeheartedly, in any plan to accomplish the desired result."

M. Briand indorsed in general terms the statements in which Mr. Balfour had expressed the decision of Great Britain to accept the formula for the limitation of naval armaments suggested by the American delegation.

Secretary Hughes said a brief word of thanks to the representatives of the Powers who had conveyed the assurance of support for the American programme. He said the conference had reached the stage where it could proceed with the consideration of details of the proposed armament limitation. The question would be settled, he said, by the technical experts, and their reports would be forthcoming within a reasonable time.

"That will permit us to study the great question of disarmament," he said, "with the assurance that there will come out of this conference an appropriate agreement to the end that there shall be no more naval war."

He then announced that the conference would stand adjourned subject to the call of the chairman.

JAPAN AWAITS U.S. MOVE ON FAR EASTERN POINTS

Eager for Chance to Explain Its Position.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 (Associated Press).—On the eve of the discussion of Far Eastern and Pacific questions in the Washington conference, Japan waits an initial move by the United States. Secretary Hughes has assumed a position of watchful waiting.

The committee of nine, representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Japan, France, Italy, China, Holland, Belgium and Portugal, will have its first session to-morrow morning.

Although the Japanese, for the moment, adopt the line of observation, it was made plain that does not mean they will not pursue a positive attitude at any time.

The beginning of the Far Eastern discussion finds Japanese troops still occupying Siberia, but with the new cabinet committed, as was the Hara Ministry, to their withdrawal. But the negotiations at Dairin to arrange for this apparently have about collapsed.

TOKIO'S BIG ANXIETY IS ORIENT'S FUTURE

Demand for Demolition of U. S. Forts in Pacific Is Sure to Be Made.

RADICALS INSISTENT

Baron Kato Goes Over Reports of Experts on Relative Navy Allotments.

WANTS SHIPYARDS OPEN

Will Ask One More Capital Ship, the New Mutsu, Than Is Allowed by Hughes.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 15. (Herald Staff Writer.)—The exact character of the modifications Japan will ask to the American proposals for limiting navies will be determined largely by what developments to-morrow in the committee to consider the political situation in the Far East.

The interest of the Japanese delegation centered to-night more on Far Eastern politics than on the details of the naval agreement, the principle of which Admiral Baron Kato, the Japanese Minister of Navy, announced to-day at the open session of the conference on the Limitation of Armaments. It became plain, in consequence, that the Japanese are willing to let the naval issues slide along for the moment until they learn where they are to find themselves in the consideration of the various Pacific problems.

Upon this development, THE NEW YORK HERALD is able to say, depends whether Japan will bring up the matter of Pacific fortifications as a part of the naval programme or as a part of the political programme.

It may be said on authority that this question is to be taken up, as has been indicated before in these despatches. It now is a matter for decision whether it is better to do so in connection with the size of the fleets or as part of the Far Eastern problem.

Kato Gave Experts' Report.

The naval experts of the Japanese mission have completed their survey of the American proposals, and have turned their report over to Baron Kato. He is looking it over and will bring up certain features of it to-morrow when the naval committee meets again.

In a general way the experts reached the decision that Japan ought to get an increased amount of capital ship tonnage. It seems that no definite figure has been arrived at, although there is some talk that 10 per cent. is the figure.

The programme outlined by Secretary Hughes provided that the replacement tonnage in capital ships—that is, the tonnage which eventually would be limited when the scheme gets into actual operation—provides that there should be 100,000 tons for Great Britain, 100,000 tons for the United States and 100,000 tons for Japan. The figure was arrived at on the basis of the present naval strength of the three nations.

In the first instance Baron Kato indicated that the ratio provided for Japan would be agreeable, but the exact figure was left to the committee. He said that Japan ought to be allowed more capital ships, basing their arguments on the tactical formation of their fleets and on the misdeeds of Japan ordinarily in the Pacific.

It was made to retain at least one more battleship, perhaps the Mutsu, which has been launched and, according to the Japanese, already in the inner circles of the Japanese Government, that this battleship be scrapped.

Would Not Close Shipyards.

It is expected that the Japanese also will have a recommendation regarding the system of replacement along the lines of that put forward by Great Britain. It is the Japanese idea too, that shipbuilding facilities should not be closed entirely, but that some system should be worked out where, in a modified way, they could be allowed to operate.

Around Japanese headquarters to-day there was great speculation as to what would happen to-morrow when Far Eastern questions are to be considered for the first time. The whole matter at issue was whether Secretary Hughes, as he was last Saturday, would have a programme, or whether the Japanese would be permitted to express their ideas as to what policy should be adopted with regard to the Far East. It was recognized that Mr. Hughes, as chairman of the conference, would have the advantage, if he cared to make use of it, of presenting a programme.

The idea went forth, although unofficially, that the Japanese could be relied upon to have a programme for the settlement of the Far Eastern issues.

WILL CANVASS VOTE.

Text of Speeches Accepting United States Proposals

Continued from First Page.

portion of disarmament which it lays down for those fleets, the Government of the country which I represent in the fullest and the heartiest sympathy with the policy which the United States have brought before us for our consideration.

They have, as we think, most rightly, taken the battle fleet as the aggressive unit which they have in the main to consider; and in the battle fleet you must include these auxiliary ships without which a modern battle fleet has neither eyes nor ears, has little power of defence against certain forms of attack, and little power of observation, little power of dealing with any equal force to which it may be opposed.

Taking those two as really belonging to one subject, namely, the battle fleet, taking those two, the battleships themselves and the vessels auxiliary and necessary to a battle fleet, we think that the proportion between these various countries is acceptable; we think the limitation of amounts is reasonable; we think it should be accepted; we firmly believe that it will be accepted.

In my view the message which has been sent around the world on Saturday is not a message which is going to be received by those most concerned with cool appreciation. I believe it is going to be received by them with warm, hearty approval, and with every effort at full, loyal and complete cooperation.

I think it would be ill fitting on such an occasion as this if I were to attempt to go into any details. There are questions—and I have no doubt that the Secretary of State, our chairman, would be the first to tell us that there are details which can only be adequately dealt with in committee.

At the first glance, for example, and I give it merely as an example—our experts are inclined to think that perhaps too large an amount of tonnage has been permitted for submarines. Submarines are a class of vessels which, in my opinion, their use and which, in fact, in the later war, were most grossly abused. We quite admit the submarine is the defensive weapon, properly used, of the weak, and that it would be impossible, or, if possible, it might be thought undesirable, to abolish them entirely. But the amount of submarine tonnage permitted by the new scheme is far in excess, I believe, of the tonnage possessed by any nation at the present moment, and I only throw it out as a suggestion that we may be well worth considering whether that tonnage should not be further limited, and whether, in addition to limiting the amount of the tonnage, it might not be practicable, and if practicable, desirable to forbid altogether the construction of submarines of greater size which are intended for defence, which are not the weapon of the weaker party, whose whole purpose is attack and whose whole purpose is probably attack by methods which civilized nations would regard with horror.

However, there may be other questions of detail, questions connected with replacement, questions connected with cruisers, which are not connected with or required for fleet action. But those are matters for consideration by the technical experts, and however they be decided, they do not touch the main outline of the structure which the United States Government desire erected, and which we earnestly wish to help them in erecting.

That structure stands, as it seems to me, clear and firm, and I cannot help thinking that in the broad outline, whatever may happen in the examination of the plan, with this requirement in view, certain modifications will be proposed with regard to the tonnage basis for replacement of the various classes of vessels. This subject should be referred to special committees of naval experts, and when such modifications are proposed I know that the American and other delegations will consider them with the same desire to meet our ideas as we have to meet theirs.

It has never claimed, nor has it intended of claiming, to have a general establishment equal in strength to that of either the United States or the British Empire. Her existing plan will show conclusively that she had never in view preparations for offensive war.

decide upon the means that are most appropriate in order to realize these hopes.

Many conferences and congresses have already met in order to try to carry out this noble idea, and Mr. Balfour was quite right when he pointed out the great danger there was in looking at this question through the glass of idealism. But Mr. Secretary (Mr. Hughes) have shown us the way: You have shown that it was no longer a question of groping for a way out of the difficulty, you have shown the way to the light by setting the example. I may say that we are back of you, Mr. Secretary.

Of course during these difficult, arduous examinations of the details of the subject, upon which, after all, depends the practical realization of it, it happens that we are taken out of the straight way and feel the temptation of using the devious paths, we on the part of France are ready to join our efforts to those of other men of good will and help in returning to the fair, straight road that would take us to our goal.

The question with which we have first to deal here is of course one that mainly concerns the great naval Powers. But I have listened with great joy to the very large, broad and general adhesion given in principle by the Governments of Great Britain and Japan. It is not that France feels entirely disinterested in this question, but I believe that there is an opportunity of saying this and showing it, but I may say now—and this will be carried out later on by figures and by demonstration—that we have already entered upon the right way and that we have already taken some steps in the direction of indicating. The war has kept us down to a certain level, of course. It has prevented us from carrying out our plans for a weak fleet, perhaps too weak for the necessities of national defence.

But I will not dwell on this subject. I rather turn to another side of the problem to which Mr. Balfour has alluded, and I thank him for this. Is it only a question here of economy? Is it only a question of estimates and budgets? If it is, we shall have a hard purpose you have in view, it will be really unworthy of the great nation that has called us here. So, the main question, the crucial question, which is to be discussed here is to know if the peoples of the world will be able to come to an understanding in order to avoid the atrocities of war, and

pen in the course of these discussions during the next few weeks, that structure will remain as it was presented by its original architects, for the admiration and for the use of mankind.

I have little more to say except this: It is easy to estimate in dollars and in pounds the cost and the saving to the taxpayer of each of the nations concerned which the adoption of this scheme will give. It is easy to show that the relief is great. It is easy to show that indirectly it will, as I hope and believe, greatly stimulate industry, agriculture and commerce, and do much to diminish the difficulties under which every civilized Government is at this time laboring. All that can be wished, measured, counted, all that is a matter of figures. But there is something in this scheme which is above and beyond numerical calculation. There is something which goes to the root, which is concerned with the highest international morality. This scheme after all—what does it do? It makes idealism a practical proposition.

It takes hold of the dream which reformers, poets, publicists, even politicians, as we heard the other day, have from time to time put before mankind as the goal to which human endeavor should aspire.

A narrative of all the attempts made of all the schemes advanced for diminishing the sorrows of war, is a melancholy one. Some fragments were laid before you by our chairman on Saturday. They were not exhilarating. They showed how easily it is to make professions and how difficult it is to carry those professions into effect.

What makes this scheme a landmark is that combined with the profession is the practice, that in addition to the expression, the eloquent expression of good intentions, in which the speeches of men of all nations have been rich, that a way has been found in which, in the most striking fashion, in a manner which must touch the imagination of everybody, which must come home to the dullest brain and the hardest heart, the Government of the United States have shown their intention not merely to say, but to do, a very good thing, that which is horrible, but there is a way by which we can really be "unhindered," by which the burdens of peace, almost as intolerable as burdens of war, can really be lightened for the populations of the world, and in doing this, in doing it in the manner in which they have done it, in striking the imagination not merely of the audience they were addressing, not merely of the great people to whom they belonged, but of the whole civilized world—in doing that they have, believe me, made the first and opening day of this congress one of the landmarks in human civilization.

I have said all that I propose to say, but if you will allow me I will read a telegram put into my hands just as I reached this meeting, this congress, from the British Prime Minister.

"Many thanks for your telegram. If you think it would serve useful purposes to let them know message might be published as follows:

"Government (that is, the British Government) have followed proceedings at opening session of conference with profound appreciation and wholeheartedly indorsed the opinion of the experts made by President Harding and Secretary of State were bold and statesmanlike utterances pregnant with infinite possibilities. Nothing could auger better for the ultimate success of the conference. Please convey to both our most sincere congratulations."

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BALFOUR LINKS UP TWO CENTURIES OF DIPLOMACY

He Met at Congress of Berlin in 1878 Men Who Established Line of Contact Back to Treaty of Ryswick in 1697.

It is, perhaps, not widely known that when A. J. Balfour, head of the British delegation, rose yesterday to address the Washington conference he linked the present international gathering with that of 1878 in Berlin, whether he went as private secretary to his uncle, Lord Salisbury, one of the British representatives and tracing the diplomatic links further back, even with the making of the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697, which settled the war between France on one side, and Great Britain, the Netherlands and Spain on the other.

The links established through this veteran British diplomatist between the present Washington meeting, the Versailles Conference and congresses which have done much toward shaping the map of the world reveal the wide extent of Mr. Balfour's labors in the field of diplomacy. Through him there is a direct link between the Washington meeting and practically every important international conference since that in Berlin in 1878.

At that Berlin conference, says the London Times, Balfour met not only Bismarck, Schouvaloff and Waddington, representatives of Germany, Russia and France, but Gorchakov, the senior Russian representative, who had been closely associated with the peace congress in Paris in 1856, which closed the Crimean war, as well as with the abortive Vienna conference a year before when he baffled the plans of Lord John Russell. In Vienna Gorchakov met Metetrich, who, although not then in office, was still consulted on the question of Austria's affairs, and Metetrich presided over the Congress of Vienna in 1814-15, which sealed the fate of Napoleon. In that congress Metetrich had Casimir, as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain for ten years, was in closest touch with men in the Foreign Office with whom long traditions of friendship were carried back to Bellinghrope and the Treaty of Utrecht, and to Matthew Prior, who, in 1697, acted as secretary in the negotiations for the Treaty of Ryswick.

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